Kandukrishi rent should be recovered in four instalments in the months of Karkatakam, Kanni, Dhanu and Kumbham. The Government would not lose anything by such change.

Kandukrishi tenants paying an annual rent of Rs. 5 calculated at the rate of 20 chs. per *para* of paddy were given the franchise for the Legislative Council. But the fanchise for the Assembly was not given to those who were paying a rent of Rs. 50 and above as in the case of other tax-payers. The Assembly Rules should be suitably amended.

Passing on to communications in the taluk, the member said that a road from Mepral to Muttar was an imperative necessity, as it would connect the Main Central, the Tiruvalla-Kozhenchery and other roads with the Kuttanadan tract. There was no English School either in Kuttanad or at Muttar and many found it difficult to send their children to Tiruvalla and stay there. Those who could not afford refrained from going in for English education. The construction of the proposed road would therefore be a great blessing. The acquisition of lands required for the road would not be very expensive, since the road would pass only through gardens and high lands.

The Putupalli-Karukachal road was first opened in 1060 M. E. but it remained in the same condition as it was 42 years ago. It was the only road leading to Kottayam from Ranni, Manimala, Anikad, Mallapalli, Champakara, Kutrapalli, Tottakad, Ancheri and other places. The need for improving it had been urged upon the Government on several occasions. There were only two bridges to be constructed *viz.*, those across the Tottakad Chempittanattu *todu* and the Champakara Edattara *todu*. The total length of the road was only 7 miles, of which 3 miles were already fit for cart traffic. The remaining portion should also be improved and made fit for such traffic.

As a result of numerous representations made at the Assembly and through memorials, the Government were convinced of the necessity for constucting the Changanachery-Alleppey canal, but no steps had been taken to start the work. Being an important canal connecting the chief commercial town of the State with an important trading centre in North Travancore, it would open up communications with the Kuttanadan tract, the chief agricultural centre in the State. The work should therefore be completed with all expedition.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joseph Oomman, in regard to the first road you refer to, I would suggest your referring to the reply I gave to Mr. Nainan Souriar in the matter. The other two roads are under investigation.

As regards the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, the matter is in the hands of the Land Revenue Commissioner, who is endeavouring to ascertain whether the people will give the necessary land free of cost to Government.

Then in regard to the change you advocate on the rent on *Kandukrishi* lands, I would advise you, "Do not look a gift horse in the mouth".

122. Needs of the Minachil taluk.

MR. KURIAKOSE CHACKO (*Member, Minachil taluk, Group I*) first thanked the Government for opening a dispensary in his taluk as prayed for in his representation made last year, and then made the following proposals in respect of commuications in the taluk:—

(1) Allotment of more funds for improving the existing roads, bridges and culverts and for taking over and maintaining the ryots' roads.

(2) The Ettumanur-Mundakayam railway should be so aligned as to pass through Erattupetta.

(3) The Punjar-Mundakayam, the Punjar-Peermade, the Kidangur-Kadapalamattam, the Kidangur-Kudallur and the Muttoli-Minachil royts' roads should be taken over under Government control and maintained departmentally.

(4) Opening the Ramapuram-Palakuzha, Ramapuram-Marika and Ramapuram-Uzhavur roads. The first and the third have been aligned. Each of them had only a length of 3½ miles.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(5) Immediate alignment of the Erattupetta-Kidangur road along the southern bank of the Minachil river proposed at the last session.

(6) Commencement of the works on the Erattupetta-Arakulam and Piravittanam-Plasanal roads.

(7) Construction of a bridge across the Minachil river on the road to Punjar.

(8) Construction of a bridge at Kulattur *kadavu* on the Ampara-Mankombu road.

The next point touched upon by the member was the temperance movement in his taluk. As suggested in the memorial dated the 20th Kanni 1102, submitted by the inhabitants of Minachil to the Dewan, the Government had appointed a special Excise Party to prevent illicit traffic in liquor. But the party had jurisdiction only over the Minachil Excise Range, so that portions of the taluk included in the Ettumanur Range were left out. Again, as the Range Inspector alone was empowered to charge the cases detected, the arrangement had not the full desired effect. The special party should have jurisdiction over the whole taluk and it should also be authorised to charge cases detected by it. A committee should also be appointed as requested in the memorial.

The Minachil taluk comprised 11 *pakuthies* and had an area of 283 square miles and a population of over 16,000 souls. The local Tahsildar, having to tour round the whole taluk for revenue work, had little time to devote to his magisterial work. A separate Second Class Magistrate's Court should be established in a central place in the taluk with jurisdiction over the whole taluk. The local Tahsildar should also be invested with First Class Magisterial powers.

The Lalam Hospital was third in rank among the hospitals in the State, judged from the number of patients resorting to it. The average number of patients annually treated was between 38,000 and 40,000, of whom more than 12,000 were women and over 9,000 children. The number of surgical cases was between 1,500 to 1,800 and the number of in-patients was between 350 and 400. But the hospital was under-manned and had not sufficient accommodation. A lady doctor to attend to the large number of female patients and two nurses for the care of the in-patients should be appointed. A compounder-nurse should at least be immediately appointed. An additional block for conducting surgical operations and the necessary equipment therefor should also be provided.

A dispensary should be opened at Kidangur. It had been suggested in some quarters that it would be enough to transfer the Atirampuzha dispensary to Ettumanur. That would be unfair to the inhabitants of Atirampuzha and the surrounding places.

A Savings Bank branch should be opened in the Kidangur Anchal Office.

A Police Charging Station should be established at Erattupetta. On the representation made last year, the Commissioner of Police had reported to the Government that a station at Erattupetta was necessary.

Other urgent needs of the taluk were a travellers' bungalow and a cutcherry building. For want of a travellers' bungalow, officers did not halt at Minachil in their tours and consequently, the people were denied opportunities to represent their grievances personally.

Lastly, the bridge across the Minachil river already under construction should be completed early.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kuriakose Chacko, with your intimate knowledge of Minachil and its requirements, you are in a far better position to go through the process of sifting and selection which your representation calls for. May I therefore ask you to be so kind as to make a list of the four works which you consider as the most pressing in the order of preference and send the list to the Chief Secretary? They will be at once taken up and considered.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly